the women members through awareness generation, economic employment and convergence of intersectoral services.

(c) All States were released grants in 1995-96.

(d) Question does not arise.

Representation by Employees of Hindustan Latex Against Privatisation

*265. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Latex Employ ees have represented against the privatisation;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government will given enough orders for supply of condoms to Hindustan Latex; if so, the total quantity ordered in the last three years; and

(d) the price difference between the Hindustan Latex products and the private products?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recommendation of Disinvestment Commission in this regard in under consideration of the Government.

(c) Except during April-October, 1997 purchase preference policy of the Government has been inforce under which preference is given to PSU while placing orders for supply. The quantity of condoms ordered on M/s. Hindustan Latex Limited, a public sector unit of the Department of Family Welfare, during the last three years is as follows:—

1995-96 465.50 Million Pieces
1996-97 641.00 Million Pieces
1997-98 395.00 Million Pieces

(d) There has been no difference in price between the rate of Hindustan Latex Limited and private producers during this period as the Department has procured condoms on the ba sis of a rate contract common to all suppliers.

Re-Emergence of Malaria in an Epidemic Form

*267. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to states:

(a) whether the 12 member commission (VHAI) in its report to prime Minister pointed out re-emergence of Malaria in an epidemic form in the country;

(b) whether this Commission has recommended setting up of a Health Mission to energise the health sector by decentralising it and making it participatory, appropriate and accountable to the people; and

(c) if so, the views of Government on this proposal and how it propose to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) The Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) have prepared a report in which inter-alia it has been stated that the number of malaria cases and deaths have increased and that it has taken an epidemic form in many States. In response to this, the National Malaria Eradication Programme Directorate have indicated that there has been an overall reduction in the number of cases of malaria during 1997 as compared to 1996.

(b) and (c) The VHAI report has also made several recommendations concerning a large number of sub-sectors within the health sector, in a letter sent by Members of the Commission the suggestion that a Technology. Mission should be set up for revitalising the health sector has also been including suggestions for greater decentralization and accountability. Since the recommendations primarily deal with the implementation of policies and programmes at the State level and encompass the primary and secondary levels of the health infrastructure, it would be necessary to consult the State Governments and related agencies about the usefulness and feasibility of the recommendaitons. This process has commenced.